

Message Text

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14/67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 IGA-02 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 AGRE-00 /112 W

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R 051944Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1283

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4020

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (INFO ADDEES ADDED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, OTRA, CA

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE DELEGATION VISIT TO CANADA -
SEPT 26-OCT 2

REF: OTTAWA 3761

1. SUMMARY: GOC WAS HAPPILY SURPRISED BY GENERALLY
SOFT-SELL APPROACH OF VIETNAMESE DELEGATION WHICH
VISITED CANADA, SEPT 26-OCT 2. THEY HAD ANTICIPATED
SOME STRIDENCY, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH AID
REQUEST, BUT EVEN WITH AID DISCUSSIONS WERE CORDIAL
AND GENERAL WITH UNDERTAKING TO DEAL WITH SPECIFICS
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LATER. GOC, HOWEVER, SIGNALLED ITS INTENTION TO

INITIATE MODEST BILATERAL AID PROGRAM. VIETNAMESE, AS EXPECTED, DID ASK TO OPEN OTTAWA EMBASSY AND GOC, AS EXPECTED, DID AGREE BUT WITH STIPULATION OF LIKELY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITED PERSONNEL. VIETNAMESE SPENT THREE DAYS VISITING CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SITES. OVERALL IMPRESSION OF EXTAFF DIRECTOR OF EAST ASIAN DIVISION IS THAT VIETNAMESE AVIDLY SEEKING ACCESS TO WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND STRONGLY INTERESTED IN INSURING THAT THEY NOT BECOME BEHOLDEN EITHER TO USSR OR PRC. END SUMMARY.

2. SMALL, DIRECTOR, EAST ASIA DIV, MIN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING WRAP-UP OF SEPT 26-OCT 2 VISIT TO CANADA BY SIX-MAN VIETNAMESE DELEGATION LED BY VICE MIN HOANG LUONG.

3. VISIT WAS PRE-BOLLED BY VIETNAMESE AS A "GOOD-WILL" MISSION AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE LARGELY JUST THAT. WHEREAS GOC HAD ANTICIPATED SPECIFIC AND HARD-SELL PITCH FOR AID AND POSSIBLY SOME DIFFERENCES OVER SIZE OF VIETNAMESE EMBASSY TO BE ESTABLISHED IN OTTAWA (REFTEL, DISCUSSIONS WERE GENERALLY LOW-KEY AND LACKING IN SPECIFICS.

4. VIETNAMESE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AN EMBASSY IN OTTAWA WITHOUT DELAY. GOC OFFICIALS GAVE APPROVAL BUT MENTIONED THAT THERE WILL LIKELY BE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AS IS THE STANDARD PRACTICE WITH "OTHER COUNTRIES OF THIS SORT." THEY ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT SHOULD BE SMALL IN KEEPING WITH THE VOLUME AND CHARACTER OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. VIETNAMESE RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO EITHER POINT, INDICATING THAT LACK OF FUNDS WOULD LIMIT SIZE OF EMBASSY, IN ANY CASE. AN ADVANCE PARTY WILL TRAVEL TO OTTAWA "PROBABLY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR" (SMALL'S ESTIMATE) AND THE VIETNAMESE SAID THEY WOULD APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR PROMPTLY.

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5. VIETNAMESE, IN OPENING PRESENTATION, OUTLINED THEIR GENERAL NEED FOR AID BUT DID NOT THEN OR LATER MAKE A HARD OR SPECIFIC APPEAL. GOC OFFICIALS, FOR THEIR PART, INDICATED CANADIAN WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO A MODEST BILATERAL PROGRAM BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD BE FOR NON-CONTROVERSIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND NOT FOR HEAVY INDUSTRY. DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICS WAS

DEFERRED AT VIETNAMESE BEHEST UNTIL AFTER
AMBASSADOR IS IN PLACE.

6. IN APRIL, 1975 GOC EARMARKED 16.75
MILLION DOLLARS FOR MULTILATERAL AID FOR HUMANITARIAN
PURPOSES IN INDO-CHINA. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES IN-
CLUDE UNHCR, UNICEF AND INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.
AT LEAST TWO MILLION DOLLARS OF THIS IS VIETNAM
COMPONENT, 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FOOD AID AND
.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR TRANSPORTATION. DURING
VISIT, VIETNAMESE ASKED FOR THE 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS
IN FLOUR BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT MAKE SPECIFIC
DEMAND RE TRANSPORTATION SEGMENT.

6. THREE DAYS OF VISIT DEVOTED TO TOUR OF
INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SITES IN TORONTO
AND MONTREAL AREAS. PLACES VISITED INCLUDED
MASSEY-FERGUSON AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT PLANT
(TORONTO); GENERAL MOTORS LOCOMOTIVE PLANT
(LONDON); PETROSAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX (SARNIA);
SURE-GAIN SWINE AND CATTLE-BREEDING FARM
(TORONTO); MONTREAL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS (MONTREAL).

8. ODDS AND ENDS IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN-
CLUDED IMMIGRATION AND CULTURAL MATTERS. RE-
GARDING FORMER, GOC REQUESTED PERMISSION TO SEND
IMMIGRATION OFFICER TO HO CHI MINH CITY TO PROCESS
HOLDERS OF PRE-VISA LETTERS ISSUED BY GOC CON-
SULAR AUTHORITIES BEFORE FALL OF SAIGON. VIETNAMESE
WERE NONCOMMITTAL BUT SAID THEY WOULD GIVE ANSWER
BEFORE END OF OCTOBER. ON CULTURAL MATTERS, GOC
MADE IT CLEAR IT DID NOT WANT A CULTURAL AGREEMENT
BUT DID PRESS VIETNAMESE FOR A JOURNALIST EXCHANGE
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PROGRAM. AS WITH SO MUCH ELSE DURING VISIT, VIETNAMESE
SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA04020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760376-0339
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761081/aaaacske.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 3761
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE DELEGATION VISIT TO CANADA - SEPT 26-OCT 2
TAGS: PGOV, OTRA, CA, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006